have held the levy of cess on mining royalty beyond the competence of the State Government and have directed refund of the cess collected along with interest thereon from the date of judgement of the Orissa High Court i.e. 22-12-1989. On this account State Government may have to refund a sum of about Rs. 100 crores and further an amount of Rs. 171·75 or say Rs. 172 crores has been estimated in the budget of 1991-92, towards collection of "cess on Mining Royalty" including the arrears pending from 1989. The cess already collected from 22-12-1989 to 31-3-1991 and the interest thereon can be protected through enactment of the "Cess on major minerals (Validation and termination) Bill, 1991" which is under consideration of the Central Government. The required central legislation to legitimise collection of cess already made may be enacted immediately in order to prevent further deterioration in the State resources.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to immediately amend this Cess on major minerals (Validation and termination) Bill, 1991, so that the State Government should not lose heavily. Otherwise, it will not be possible for it to carry on developmental works in the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make a humble submission that people living in the Adivasi areas of Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh are dying in large numbers for want of basic medical and drinking water facilities. Thousands of people have died earlier also and many are in their death beds. The State Government is totally indifferent towards the prevention of the spreading of epidemic .... (*Interruptions*) I request that a Committee be constituted to inquire into the matter.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH PANWAR (Kairana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the problem of acute water shortage in three districts of Western Uttar Pradesh, namely Meerut, Muzaffar Nagar and Kanpur. There is a sharp fall in the water level of the Eastern Yamuna Canal originates from a place called Tajewala and what's more the water of the Western Yamuna Canal is diverted to Haryana as a result of which the distribution of water is imbalance. Uttar Pradesh is not getting its due share. It is a predominantly agricultural area and soil is highly fertile. The water shortage has created a grave crisis. I request the Union Government to urge upon the U.P. and Haryana Governments to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution and correct the present imbalance.

[*English*]

SHRI N. MURUGESAN (Karur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to bring to your notice that more than four hundred and odd tiny small-scale units created out of Prime Minister's self-empolyment programme, manufacturing high density polyethylene monofilament yarn used for making fishing nets and mosquito nets throughout the country, mostly (eighty per cent) in Tamil Nadu, especially in my constituency, that is, Karur, have been closed as a result of imposition of new excise levy of Rs. 9·25 per kilogram, which results in joblessness for more than ten thousand workers, mostly women. In the same manner, due to sudden rise in yarn rates by twenty per cent, thousands of handloom weavers are thrown out of job. This is due to export of cotton.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to repeal the imposed excise duty of Rs. 9·25 per kilogram so as to save the souls of poor and down-trodden employed in this sector and also show consideration by yarn price reduction and by stoppage of cotton export.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Munger) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards Munger district of Bihar. I has become very necessary to build a bridge across River Ganges, at Munger.

While on the one hand, there is a serious transportation problem in the Begusarai, Munger, Khagaria and Jamui districts, on the other development work has come to a standstill. If this bridge is constructed, it would not only increase the revenue of the Government but also prove beneficial to four crores of people. Although both Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had given assurances in this regard in 1953 and 1971 respectively, the Union Government is yet to take any concrete action. I request the Central Government to allocate the necessary finance and start construction work of the bridge without delay.

SHRI SUKDEV PASWAN(Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar produces more Jute than Bengal or Orissa and I represent the Araria Parliamentary constituency, which contributes major chunk to the total jute production. Last year, the procurement price for jute was Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 per quintal, but now it has been reduced to Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 per quintal. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I had allowed a half an hour discussion on this issue and many questions were raised and answered on this topic. This is misuse of time, you are infringing on other's time. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House a very important issue. 'INDRADHANUSH' a video cassette magazine, has carried an interview—in their August issue—of one Shri Rajendra Dara, who is writing an investigative book on PEPSI. In that interview he has raised certain important points in regard to the hand behind the Rajiv Gandhi assassination. A pertinent question has been raised, whether the CIA and PEPSI are involved in this. The Censor Board has not permitted this to go in that issue. They have deleted it. Why has this been done ? We are apprehensive that an attempt is going on to subvert any attempt to unravel the conspirators behind the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and those who have motivated LTTE in doing that kind of ghastly act. You will also remember about the musterious death of Shanmugam which has caused a lot of apprehension in our mind.

You also know how the Thakkar Commission report, that part which mentioned about the foreign powers' involvement in Indira Gandhi's murder case, was not placed before the House. I have these paper cuttings with me wherein the Home Minister has said in the other House that Rajiv Gandhi became an irritant to some of the countries who are left unchallenged as super powers. That had been contradicted by Foreign Office. I want to know that in every step where an attempt is made to unravel the conspirators behind the assassination, there is an attempt to subvert it and suppress it. I want a definite statement. Who are the people responsible for not clearing this in the Censor Board ? We have a right to know.

This man Shri Rajendra Dara will give all the information to the Home Minister. He must be protected. He is writing an investigative book. He must be having many clues. These clues can be pieced together. I will hand over all the information to the Home Minister. Shri Dara should be protected and information from him should be taken for the Inquiry Commission that is going into the case. That is very important. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Tanskura) : This is really a very important matter.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very importat matter.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Every day you want to bring important matters. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The High Court of Calcutta is also